

Net neutrality can be considered as under serious threat. Right now, there is a proposal by FCC to roll back the critical net neutrality protections in the Open Internet Order.

Net Neutrality is a simple principle that allows all Internet traffic to be treated equally. The original concept of net neutrality was based on the end-to-end argument, which implies universal and reciprocal access among the users connected to the Internet (Mueller, 2007). From the dawn of Internet, we are able to share good ideas either from a corporate board room or a college dorm room only because of its equality and openness. With the rapid development of the Internet as an ubiquitously available platform for information, entertainment and communication, the role of network infrastructure owners has shifted to an essential gatekeeper position in the information society. Therefore, the public and politicians alike are concerned about how Internet service provider (ISPs) are going to monetize access and usage of the networks in the future (Kramer, Wiewiorra, & Weinhardt, 2013). Right now, it is under constant attack by big network operators to increase their grip on the market. As proposed by FCC which will allow companies like Comcast to charge fees to the websites in order to stream their contents at higher speeds. This will create a two-tiered Internet - a “fast lane” for the rich, and a slow lane for everyone else. Therefore, to prevent this partiality, we must save net neutrality.

In the past, previous government had taken a very encouraging step toward keeping the Internet open and free. They believed that there should be a strict rules to protect net neutrality. We all know that Internet is one of the most powerful and democratizing influence we have ever known. We all use Internet to find jobs, to pursue advanced education, access healthcare, manage our finances, interact socially and most important to be able to convey our civic dialogue. All of these has become possible only because of open Internet. The Internet has become an essential part of our everyday communication and everyday life. Without which we are nothing.

If net neutrality doesn't exist then its outcome would be disastrous. Comcast, an ISP, may decide to lay “convenience fee” or “service fee” of \$5 on their consumers to access popular websites like Facebook or Wikipedia. In doing so, it would prevent access for low-income users to plethora of information available on Internet. They will also suffer from slow speeds and prohibitive broadband costs.

Small businesses are central in any discussion on net neutrality. They rely on an open, neutral Internet to sell products to their customers. Studies show that

nearly half of online users exit a website if it doesn't load within three seconds. In the future, cable and Internet companies could act like digital robber barons, making businesses pay fees if they want customers to surf their sites at high speed. Many fear that powerful carriers will effectively tax innovation and culture by auctioning off a "fast track" and degrading the quality of service ("QoS") of those who cannot afford it (Pasquale, 2008). Without net neutrality laws, there's nothing to stop them from doing that. A particular concern is that network operators could use discrimination to extract oligopoly rents from upstream markets that are highly competitive (Peha, 2007).

An open Internet is essential for entrepreneurship. Small businesses and startups across the country can't afford to pay companies like AT&T, Comcast, Small businesses are the backbone of the economy, the Federal Communications Commission supports shouldn't touch the Open Internet Order.

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